

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00924 141857Z

54

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 ORM-02 IO-13 /043 W

----- 013257

R 141518Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8104

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USEG GABORONE 0924

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BC, LT

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA POLITICIAN CRITICIZES LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER

REF: GABORONE 0852

1. MAY 13 RAND DAILY MAIL CARRIES STORY ON INSIDE PAGE ENTITLED "BOTSWANA FEARED FOR ITS STUDENTS." ARTICLE WITH BY-LINE MASOABI MOTSETA APPEARS TO BE INTERVIEW WITH WELLIE SEBONI, BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY (BDP) MP FOR GABORONE. IN INTERVIEW SEBONI CLAIMS THAT BOTSWANA STUDENTS WERE RECALLED FROM ROMA CAMPUS "BECAUSE OF FEARS FOR THEIR SAFETY". SEBONI IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE MOVE WAS NECESSITATED BY THE ACTIONS OF THE LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER, WHOM HE REFERRED TO AS "THAT COWARDLY AND PIG-HEADED BLACK MAN CALLED LEABUA JONATHAN." SEBONI IS ALSO REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THOUSANDS OF BASOTHO NATIONALS HAD FLED TO BOTSWANA TO ESCAPE THE "WRATH OF LEABUA JONATHAN".

2. COMMENT: MOTSETA IS MASOTHO REFUGEE RESIDENT IN GABORONE WHO IS STRINGER FOR DAILY MAIL AND OTHER NEWS AGENCIES. HE IS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO JONATHAN AND PROBABLY

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USED INTERVIEW WITH SEBONI FOR ATTACK ON LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER.

THIS WILL PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED BY LESOTHO GOVERNMENT AS
ANOTHER BOTSWANA PROVOCATION AND WILL CERTAINLY NOT HELP
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

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Message Attributes

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